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Residents of Canada's shelters for abused women, 2008

by Julie Sauvé and Mike Burns

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Note

Data on annual admissions to shelters are under revision due to incorrect reporting by a survey respondent. Revised data will be released when available.

Statistics Canada
Juristat

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Symbols

. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published

Residents of Canada's shelters for abused women, 2008: Highlights

- Between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008, approximately 101,000 women and children were admitted to 569 shelters in Canada.
- On April 16, 2008, the survey snapshot day, 4,273 women and 3,361 children were residing in various shelters across Canada. Nearly 80% of these women and children were attempting to flee an abusive situation and the remainder were seeking shelter for reasons other than abuse.
- On snapshot day, nearly half of the female victims of abuse in shelters were admitted with their children. Slightly more than one in five women did not have their children with them when they were admitted, and the other women did not have any parenting responsibilities or their situation was unknown.
- Psychological or emotional abuse, as well as physical abuse, were the types of abuse cited by women seeking shelter. For three-quarters of women in shelters, the abuse was inflicted by a spouse or former spouse.
- One quarter (25%) of the women in shelters on the snapshot day were there to protect their children from witnessing the abuse being inflicted on their mother. The women also wanted to protect their children from abusive situations, such as of psychological abuse (20%) and physical abuse (12%)
- More than 9 in 10 women who left shelters for abused women on April 16, 2008 did not plan to return to live with their spouses.

Residents of Canada's shelters for abused women, 2008

By Julie Sauvé and Mike Burns

According to results from the most recent national victimization survey,[1] approximately 10% of violent crime victims sought assistance from formal agencies with mandates to provide a wide range of support services to victims of crime. In Canada, shelters are among the types of agencies that support victims. Their main objective is to offer residential services to victims who are escaping an abusive situation.

The Transition Home Survey (THS) provides an overview of shelters in Canada that offer services to abused women and their children.[2] The THS also provides a profile of the persons who reside in shelters on a specific day of the year. This *Juristat* article focuses on the residents of shelters that assist female victims of violence and their children.[3] The characteristics of women residing in shelters on April 16, 2008 are presented, as are the reasons that led them to seek such support services, and the types of shelters they sought to escape the abuse. Departures from shelters and re-admissions are also examined.

Abused women turn to both transition homes and emergency facilities

Between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008, approximately 101,000[4] women and children were admitted to 569 various types of shelters in Canada. The number of admissions to shelters has remained relatively stable over the past ten years.

Among the women and children admitted over the course of the most recent survey cycle, nearly 9 out of 10 were admitted to transition homes (44%), women's emergency centres (25%) or emergency shelters (19%) (Table 1). Although transition homes remained the primary type of shelter for abused women in Canada, for the first time in 2008, as many women and children were admitted to emergency type facilities—women's emergency shelters and emergency shelters—as those admitted to transition homes.

The use of transition homes as a shelter type has been decreasing steadily since 2000[5] according to a sample of 354 shelters that have participated in five consecutive cycles of the survey. While admissions to transition homes represented 65% of admissions to all types of shelters in 2000, they represented 53% of all admissions in 2008. As a result of the increase in the number of emergency-type shelters providing services to victims, admissions to these types of facilities increased from 26% to 40% over the same time period.

1. The 2004 General Social Survey on Victimization.
2. Facilities that exclusively serve male victims fall outside the scope of the survey. Admissions of men will be discussed in the publication Family violence in Canada: a statistical profile, 2009 to be released in the fall of 2009.
3. The complete THS data will be released in the fall of 2009 in the publication *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2009*.
4. An admission is registered each time a person is formally admitted, even if it is a repeat visit.
5. In addition to presenting findings from the most recent cycle of the THS, this report also includes an analysis of time-series data from the THS trend file.

Text box 1
Types of residential facilities for abused women and children in the Transition Home Survey

The term 'shelter' is used broadly to refer to all residential facilities for abused women and their dependent children. In addition, for the purposes of the THS, the following generic categories were developed to further define the various types of shelters. Referring to these definitions, those responding to the THS selected the facility-type that **best described** their shelter.

Second stage housing: Facility offering long-term (3 to 12 months) secure housing with support and referral services designed to assist women while they search for permanent housing.

Transition home or shelter: Facility offering short or moderate term (1 day to 11 weeks) secure housing for abused women with or without children; also referred to as first stage emergency housing.

Family resource centre: Residential services provided through an Ontario government initiative that serves a wide range of clients and provides an extensive array of information and referrals.

Women's emergency centre or shelter: Facility offering short-term (1 to 21 days) respite for women and their dependent children.

Emergency shelter: Facility offering short-term (1 to 3 days) respite for a wide population range, not exclusively abused women. Some facilities may provide accommodation for men as well as women. This type of facility may accommodate residents who are not associated with family abuse but are without a home due to an emergency situation (e.g., eviction for non-payment of rent). Other than room and board services, these shelters offer few additional client services.

Safe home network: A network of private homes in rural or remote areas where there is no full-fledged operating shelter. It offers subsidiary very short term (1 to 3 days) emergency housing.

Other: Includes all other residential facilities offering services to abused women with or without children, not otherwise classified. This category includes Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCAs. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

Over half of abused women in shelters were admitted with their children

On April 16, 2008,[6] 4,273 women were residing in shelters across Canada, and 3,222 of them were attempting to escape an abusive situation. These women brought nearly 2,900 children with them. The remaining women and children in shelters on snapshot day were seeking accommodation for reasons other than abuse.[7]

6. In addition to gathering data on residential services provided to female victims of violence and their children during a 12-month period, the THS also produces a snapshot of the persons who received services on a given day. The data collected on April 16, 2008, the survey snapshot day, provides a reliable overview of the shelter residents.
7. Includes housing issues, for example.

Nearly half the female victims of abuse seeking shelter had been admitted with their children (Table 2). Slightly more than one in five women did not have their children with them[8] when they were admitted. The remaining 31% of women either had no parenting responsibilities or their situation was unknown. Women accompanied by their children were primarily transition home (39%) and second stage housing (31%) residents.

Over the last five cycles of the survey,[9] the percentage of women who resided in shelters with children has decreased. In 2000, 56% of women brought their children with them to shelters, compared to 52% by 2008. In contrast, the percentage of women admitted to shelters who did not have parenting responsibilities increased slightly from 23% in 2000 to 25% in 2008.

Psychological and physical abuse remain the main reasons women go to shelters

Three-quarters of the women who were in shelters on April 16, 2008 were victims of abuse and it was the abuse that led many of them to seek assistance at shelters. On snapshot day, abused women residing in shelters[10] were mainly there to escape psychological or emotional abuse and physical abuse (Table 3). Although psychological and physical abuse have been the principal reasons for which women have sought assistance at shelters over time, psychological abuse was cited more often in 2008 than in the past. In 2008, 68% of women wanted to escape situations of psychological abuse compared to 63% in 2000.

In addition to wanting to escape psychological or physical abuse, women residing in shelters on April 16, 2008 also reported that they wanted to escape threats (39%) or financial abuse (36%). About 1 in 4 women were fleeing harassment (28%) or sexual abuse (24%).

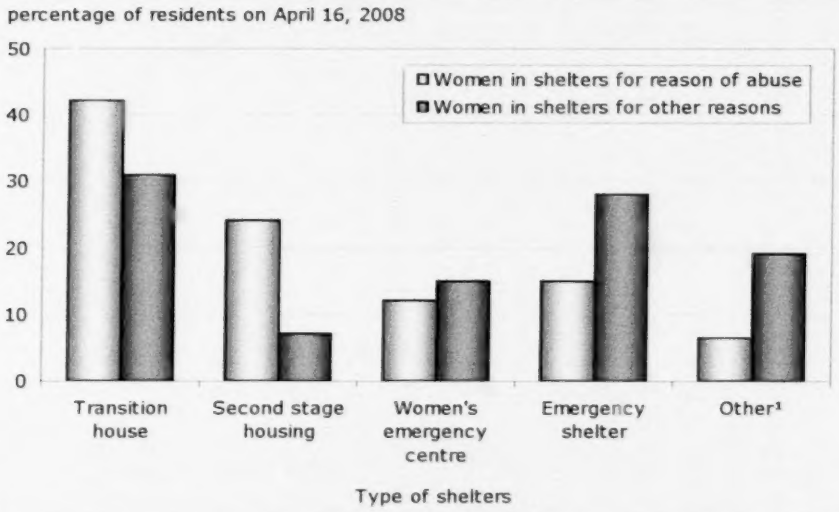
Not all women in shelters were attempting to flee abusive situations; about one third of shelter residents cited a lack of affordable housing as the main reason they were at a shelter.

Women who resided in shelters with their children on April 16, 2008 were at the shelter to protect their children. Among these women, 25% wanted to protect their children from witnessing the abuse they were experiencing. The women also wanted to protect their children from psychologically or physically abusive situations (Table 3).

Among the women using shelters, those escaping abuse were more inclined to select facilities that offered services and programs specifically designed for abused women. Abused women staying in shelters were most likely to use transition homes (42%) and second stage houses (24%) (Chart 1). By comparison, women residing in shelters for reasons not related to abuse were more likely to turn emergency type facilities (43%) (women's emergency centres [15%] and emergency shelters [28%]).

8. Shelters were asked to report on whether residents were admitted to the shelter with or without their children. However, it is unknown whether women not accompanied by their children had legal and/or physical custody of those children prior to reporting to the shelters.
9. According to the trend file.
10. Shelters were asked to report the types of abuse women residents were fleeing. Shelters were instructed to report all types of abuse suffered by each resident. Therefore, multiple responses for one woman were possible and the percentages for each type of abuse will not total 100%.

Chart 1
The types of shelters women seek vary according to their needs



1. 'Other' includes safe home networks, Ontario Family Resource Centres, and Manitoba Interim Housing as well as any other facilities not otherwise classified. This represents approximately 9% of all facilities.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2007-2008 Transition Home Survey.

Most abused women in shelters were fleeing from spouses or common-law partners

The majority of women who turned to shelters because of abuse were in spousal relationships. About two-thirds of abused women in shelters on survey snapshot day were fleeing the abuse of a current spouse or partner and 12% were there because of the abuse of a former spouse or partner (Table 2).

The picture was similar in most provinces. In New Brunswick, 89% of women in shelters were fleeing a violent current or former spouse, as was the case for more than 8 in 10 women in shelters in Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Alberta. In Nova Scotia, slightly more than two-thirds of women in shelters were there for reasons of spousal abuse (Table 4).

A higher proportion of residents were using a shelter to flee the abuse of a current or former common-law partner (45%) than a current or former husband (32%). Common-law relationships are associated with an elevated risk of spousal violence—one study found that individuals in a common-law relationship were three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence than were those in marriages (Mihorean, 2005).

While nearly two-thirds of women in shelters on the THS snapshot day were fleeing an abusive marital or common-law union, other women were there to escape the abuse of someone they were currently or had been dating (7%) or a relative (6%) (Table 2).

Most abused women in shelters were under 45 years of age

Approximately 28 per 100,000 women aged 15 and older in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse. Nearly 8 in 10 abused women in shelters on April 16, 2008 were under 45 years of age (Table 5). Age is one of the strongest risk factors linked to victimization, including spousal violence. In 2004, findings from the General Social Survey (GSS) revealed that people under 45 years of age were more likely to have been victims of spousal violence than those aged 45 and older (Mihorean, 2005).

A third of women went to shelters on their own

It is sometimes difficult for women who are victims of abuse to ask for assistance. In 2008, nearly a third (34%) of women who turned to shelters went there of their own volition and almost 30% were referred by either another transition home or another community agency. According to the 2004 GSS, only 34% of abused women turned to help agencies following a violent incident (Mihorean, 2005). Women sought help primarily from informal sources of support such as family members.

Not all women and children seeking assistance from shelters are admitted to those shelters, either due to lack of space in the shelter or due to alcohol, drug or mental health issues. The most common reason shelters turned away women and children on April 16, 2008 was the lack of space in these shelters. In all, 299 women and 148 children were turned away from a shelter. Thirty seven percent of these individuals were turned away from a transition home and 26% were turned away from an emergency shelter.

A quarter of abused women had reported the incident to the police

A quarter of abused women residing in shelters on snapshot day had reported their most recent incident to the police.[11] This is similar to results from the 2004 national victimization survey, which revealed that among female victims of spousal violence slightly more than a quarter of victims had reported the violence to the police (Mihorean, 2005). The proportion of incidents reported to police by women may be related to the fact that they usually suffer more serious and more frequent abuse. In fact, charges had been laid against the abusers of 16% of the women residing in shelters on April 16, 2008.[12] In addition, 15% of women in shelters had obtained a restraining or protection order[13] against their perpetrator.[14]

Most women leaving shelters did not plan to return to their abusive spouses

Between midnight and noon on April 16, 2008, 101 women and 51 children departed from a shelter. Among the 101 women who left on this day, more than 9 out of 10 did not plan to return to live with their spouses. Nearly 4 women in 10 did not know where they would go after they left. Among these, half were leaving a women's emergency centre, that is; a facility offering short-term accommodation.

11. In almost half of cases, the incident had not been reported to the police and in 29% of cases, the information was unknown.
12. In 45% of cases, no charges had been laid against the abuser and in 39% of cases, the information was unknown.
13. Includes peace bond, restraining order, undertaking to keep the peace and have good conduct, conditions of probation, emergency intervention order, emergency protection order, victim's assistance order, order to abstain from persistently following a person about from place to place, etc.
14. In 42% of cases, no order had been obtained for the abuser and in 43% of cases, the information was unknown.

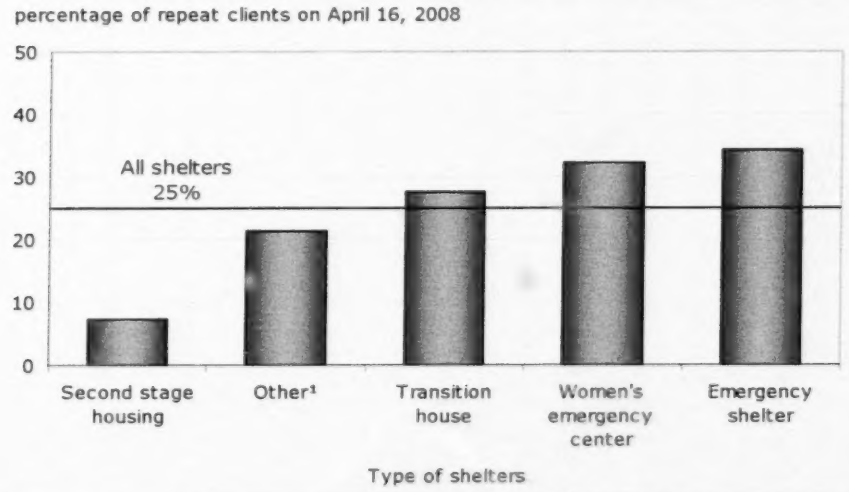
Fewer re-admissions to shelters for abused women

Not all women in shelters on April 16, 2008 were there for the first time. A quarter (25%) of them had previously turned to a shelter for abused women[15] (Table 6). This was a decrease of 11 percentage points compared to 2006. Among the women who had previously stayed at a shelter, the largest proportion, 32%, had been to the shelter on one prior occasion in the last year. About one-fifth (23%) had two to four previous stays and 13% had resided there five or more times (Table 6).

Among women with multiple shelter stays, the length of time between stays was typically less than a year. In 2008, nearly three-quarters of re-admissions to shelters occurred within the last year. For 27% of women who had previously stayed in shelters, it had been more than one year since their last stay.

Among the most frequently used facility types, women's emergency centres, transition homes and emergency shelters, the proportion of residents who were repeat clients was similar (Chart 2). However, re-admissions were notably less common among second stage housing residents (7%).

Chart 2
Re-admissions were more common in emergency shelters



1. 'Other' includes safe home networks, Ontario Family Resource Centres, and Manitoba Interim Housing as well as any other facilities not otherwise classified.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2007-2008 Transition Home Survey.

15. Figures from the THS on repeat admissions reflect re-admissions of clients to the same shelter and do not count women who may have previously sought shelter in a different facility.

Summary

More than 101,000 women and children were admitted in shelters in 2008. On April 16, 2008, over 7,000 women and children were residing in shelters to escape some form of abuse or for other reasons. On that day, three-quarters of women in shelters were fleeing an abusive situation, and for two-thirds of these women, the abuser was their common-law partner or spouse.

Of the approximately 4,000 women who were residing in shelters, two-thirds were fleeing a situation of psychological abuse and half were fleeing a situation of physical abuse. Some of these women were admitted with their children in order to protect them from abuse or prevent them from witnessing abuse inflicted on their mother. Nearly half the abused women and their children were admitted to transition homes that provide longer-term services, whereas women fleeing situations other than abuse turned to emergency type facilities. The majority of women leaving shelters for abused women did not plan to return to live with their spouses.

Sources and methodology

Transition Home Survey

The Transition Home Survey (THS) was developed under the federal government's Family Violence Initiative in consultation with provincial and territorial governments and transition home associations. The objectives of the survey are to collect information on the characteristics of residential services for abused women and their children during the previous twelve months of operation. In addition, the THS collects information on selected characteristics for the women and children residing in these shelters on a specified 'snapshot' day. In 1991/1992, Statistics Canada began collecting basic information on transition home services and clientele. A more comprehensive survey was developed and administered in 1992/1993 and was repeated, with some changes, in 1994/1995, and every second year from 1997/1998 to 2007/2008.

The THS is a biennial mail-out/mail-back census survey of all residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children. Shelters that serve a broader population, in addition to women escaping domestic violence, such as those providing residential services to male victims of spousal abuse and men and women seeking refuge for reasons other than abuse, are also included on the THS. Facilities that exclusively serve male victims of spousal abuse fall outside the scope of this survey. At the time of this survey, one such facility was known to be in operation. The THS does not include shelters that do not provide residential services.

Of the 569 residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children, 518 returned their questionnaires for a response rate of 91%. Across Canada, response rates were highest among shelters in Prince Edward Island (100%), New Brunswick (95%), British Columbia (95%) and Newfoundland-and-Labrador (93%). Response rates for Northwest Territories and Nunavut was 100% whereas the response rate in Yukon was close to the one of the provinces (Table 7).

Separate questionnaires were completed for facilities that had two or more residences under the same name or address. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one facility-type had to be included on one questionnaire. In these cases, the determination of facility-type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities.

Imputation procedure for the 2006 THS

For a second time in 2007/2008, an imputation procedure was used to replace missing data for non-respondents on the THS. While the response rate for the THS has ranged from 87% to 92% since 1998, the use of a simple imputation strategy to treat non-response makes the THS estimates even more meaningful by having a complete micro-data file.

Potential THS respondents were grouped into three main categories based on the extent to which they had completed 12 key questions. Specifically, the three respondent groupings were defined as follows:

Complete respondent: submitted a questionnaire and there was a response for each of the 12 key questions. There were 506 complete respondents.

Partial non-respondent: submitted a questionnaire but did not answer all of the key questions. There were 12 partial non-respondents.

Complete non-respondent: did not submit a questionnaire and only the province and facility type of the shelter were known. There were 51 complete non-respondents.

After the procedure, the imputed data were tested for statistically significant differences from the data collected from respondents. The results from the test show no statistically meaningful differences between the imputed and respondent data.

Transition Home Survey Trend File

The THS trend files compiles data from facilities participating in each cycle of the THS starting in 2000, thereby controlling for non-response and the composition of facility-types. The THS trend file is based on a subset of 354 shelters or 62% of the shelters surveyed in 2008.

The General Social Survey on Victimization

The General Social Survey (GSS) is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year, the GSS focuses on various regular topics (including time use, social support, the family, technology and victimization). In 2004, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the GSS for a fourth time. Previous surveys were conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the prevalence of eight offence types (based on the Criminal Code definitions) and to examine factors related to the risk of victimization, victims' willingness to report crimes to the police, reasons for not reporting, and to measure public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. In 2009, the fifth cycle of the national victimization survey will be conducted.

The GSS is a telephone sample survey covering the non-institutionalized population aged 15 years or older in the ten provinces. In 2004, a total of approximately 24,000 people were interviewed with a response rate of 75%.

Please see the annual publication *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*, for results from the 2004 GSS on spousal and family violence.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Annual admissions by facility type, Canada, provinces and territories, 2007/2008

Province and territory	Facility type											
	All facility types			Transition house			Women's emergency centre			Emergency shelter		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
	number											
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,107	706	401	753	429	324	15	10	5	194	180	14
Prince Edward Island	185	112	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	64	56
Nova Scotia	1,269	747	522	1,144	674	470	0	0	0	54	40	14
New Brunswick	2,078	1,352	726	1,725	1,071	654	0	0	0	193	193	0
Quebec	19,226	13,651	5,575	13,725	8,683	5,042	533	280	253	187	187	0
Ontario	30,671	18,832	11,839	11,373	6,627	4,746	4,638	3,479	1,159	11,352	6,539	4,813
Manitoba	8,565	3,331	3,807	220	97	123	5,214	1,643	2,144	2,350	1,301	1,049
Saskatchewan	4,015	1,932	2,083	1,351	690	661	223	95	128	2,149	976	1,173
Alberta	14,582	8,021	6,561	640	416	224	12,584	6,892	5,692	642	391	251
British Columbia	17,297	11,881	5,416	12,292	7,957	4,335	1,889	1,539	350	1,791	1,628	163
Yukon	1,122	649	473	665	401	264	419	220	199	14	13	1
Northwest Territories and Nunavut[1]	902	476	426	751	375	376	15	12	3	136	89	47
Canada	**101,019**	**61,690**	**37,902**	**44,639**	**27,420**	**17,219**	**25,530**	**14,170**	**9,933**	**19,182**	**11,601**	**7,581**

Province and territory	Facility type											
	Second stage housing			Family resource centre			Safe home network			Other[2]		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
	number											
Newfoundland and Labrador	98	47	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	40	7
Prince Edward Island	65	48	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	71	33	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Brunswick	121	49	72	0	0	0	3	3	0	36	36	0
Quebec	366	187	179	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,415	4,314	101
Ontario	1,011	460	551	1,135	749	386	0	0	0	1,162	978	184
Manitoba	183	67	116	0	0	0	68	44	24	530	179	351
Saskatchewan	192	71	121	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	0
Alberta	647	253	394	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	69	0
British Columbia	534	259	275	0	0	0	746	453	293	45	45	0
Yukon	24	15	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	**3,312**	**1,489**	**1,823**	**1,135**	**749**	**386**	**817**	**500**	**317**	**6,404**	**5,761**	**643**

1. Due to a limited number of facilities in Northwest Territories and Nunavut, information for shelters in these territories has been combined, for reasons of confidentiality and data quality.
2. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.
Note: Precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2008 or their own twelve month fiscal period. Because the number and type of shelters participating in each cycle of the Transition Home Survey may vary, comparisons of admissions from 2007/2008 to results from previous survey cycles are not advisable. The actual annual admissions breakdown for women and children is unknown for approximately 1% of the survey respondents. In there cases, the shelters provided only a total admissions for a period of 12 months but it was not possible to determine the precise number or women and children. As a result, it may be possible that the total number of annual admissions does not correspond to the sum of admissions for women and children.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

Table 2
Selected characteristics of abused women residing in shelters on April 16, 2008, Canada

	Abused women	
Selected characteristics	**number**	**percent**
Parental status		
Admitted with child(ren)	1,562	48
Admitted without child(ren)[1]	677	21
No child(ren) and parenting responsibilities	800	25
Unknown	183	6
Relationship to abuser		
Common-law partner	1,207	37
Spouse	860	27
Ex-common-law partner	231	7
Dating or ex-dating relationship	210	7
Relative (e.g., parent, child)	199	6
Ex-spouse	155	5
Other[2]	107	3
Unknown	253	8
Total women admitted due to abuse	**3,222**	**100**

1. It is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
2. 'Other' includes all other relationships not otherwise classified.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

Table 3
Reasons for women for seeking shelters, Canada, April 16, 2008

Reasons	Women residing in shelters	
	number	percent of women[1]
Psychological abuse	2,798	65
Physical abuse	2,349	55
Threats	1,658	39
Financial abuse	1,550	36
Harassment	1,209	28
Sexual abuse	1,040	24
Protection of children from:		
Witnessing abuse of mother	1,065	25
Psychological abuse	842	20
Physical abuse	523	12
Threats	433	10
Neglect	314	7
Sexual abuse	171	4
Other types of abuse	368	9
Housing problem		
Unable to find affordable housing	1,379	32
Short-term housing problem	826	19
Housing emergency	525	12
Mental health problems	945	22
Drug and alcohol addiction	880	21
Other reasons—total	272	6
Reason unknown	31	1
Total women residing in shelters	**4,273**	**100**

1. Due to multiple responses, the sum of the percentages does not equal 100.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

Table 4
Rate of women in shelters to escape the abuse of a current or former spouse or common-law partner on April 16, 2008, Canada, provinces and territories

Province and territory	Total women in shelters to escape abuse of current or former spouse or partner		Population of married, common-law and separated[1] women	Rate[2] per 100,000 married, common-law and separated women
	number	percent	number	rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	46	85	137,244	34
Prince Edward Island	10	77	35,678	28
Nova Scotia	45	68	235,463	19
New Brunswick	74	89	190,730	39
Quebec	481	81	1,797,903	27
Ontario	910	74	3,174,148	29
Manitoba	80	70	273,258	29
Saskatchewan	86	83	234,650	37
Alberta	273	81	827,961	33
British Columbia	403	70	1,076,812	37
Yukon	18	78	7,708	234
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	27	96	14,751	183
Canada	**2,453**	**76**	**8,006,306**	**31**

1. Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. Population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1: preliminary post-censal estimates for 2007.
2. Separated includes persons currently married, but who are no longer living with their spouse (for any reason other than illness or work) and have not obtained a divorce. Persons who are separated but who live with a common-law partner are not included.
Note: Comparisons across jurisdictions should be made with caution, as factors such as shelter capacity and availability can influence rates of usage. Moreover, usage rates should not be considered a proxy measure for the incidence of spousal violence in provinces and territories.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

Table 5
Age groups of abused women residing in shelters on April 16, 2008, Canada

	Women residing in shelters for reasons of abuse		Population of single, married, separated and common-law women	Rate[1] per 100,000 single, married, common-law and separated women
Age groups	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**rate**
15 to 24 years	564	18	2,177,787	26
25 to 34 years	1,168	36	2,181,221	54
35 to 44 years	779	24	2,297,056	34
45 to 54 years	388	12	2,238,835	17
55 years and over	180	6	2,777,473	6
Age unknown	143	4	...	...
Total women admitted due to abuse	**3,222**	**100**	**11,672,372**	**28**

1. Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. Population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1: preliminary post-censal estimates for 2007.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

Table 6
Frequency of previous shelter stays within the last 12 months by facility type, Canada, 2007/2008

Facility type	1 time	2 to 4 times	5 or more times	Number of times unknown	More than 12 months since last stay
	percent of repeat residents				
Transition house	34	26	4	4	32
Second stage housing	40	16	5	3	35
Safe home network	0	33	0	0	67
Women's emergency shelter	15	17	42	2	25
Emergency shelter	40	22	9	12	18
Family resource centre (Ontario)	24	29	12	0	35
Other[1]	27	20	23	2	28
All shelters	**32**	**23**	**13**	**5**	**27**

1. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCAs. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

Table 7
Number of shelters in operation and of shelters that responded to the Transition Home Survey, Canada, provinces and territories, 2007/2008

Province and territory	Shelters in operation	Shelters that responded to the 2008 survey	Response rate
	number	number	percent
Canada	**569**	**518**	**91**
Newfoundland and Labrador	15	14	93
Prince Edward Island	5	5	100
Nova Scotia	16	14	88
New Brunswick	22	21	95
Quebec	126	115	91
Ontario	160	145	91
Manitoba	29	24	83
Saskatchewan	24	20	83
Alberta	50	44	88
British Columbia	110	105	95
Yukon	5	4	80
Northwest Territories and Nunavut[1]	7	7	100

1. Due to the limited number of facilities for Northwest Territories and Nunavut, information for shelters in these territories has been combined for reasons of confidentiality and data quality.

Note: Facilities that house or operate more than one type of shelter (e.g., transition home, emergency shelter and second stage housing) are asked to complete a separate survey for each shelter type. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one survey. In such cases, the determination of facility-type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities (see Sources and methodology).

Compared to the 2005-2006 THS, Canada's response rate was higher in 2007-2008 (91% vs. 88%). At the provincial level, response rates were either identical or similar to those of the previous cycle: in Prince Edward Island (100% for both cycles), in Newfoundland and Labrador (93% for both cycles), in Saskatchewan (83% for both cycles), in Quebec (91% vs. 90%), in Manitoba (83% vs. 82%), in Alberta (88% vs. 90%) and in British Columbia (95% vs. 93%). Response rates were higher in New Brunswick (95% vs. 87%), in Ontario (91% vs. 87%) and in Yukon (100% vs. 50%) and Northwest Territories and Nunavut (100% vs. 40%).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

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